GDP spent on health

2054. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 0.9 per cent of GDP of the country is spent on public health;

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to meet public health care requirements; and

(c) whether Government would increase allocation to public health with a view to improve the quality of life of the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Common Minimum Programme has suggested raising public spending on health at least 2-3% of GDP over the next 5 years. Given this objective and the need to provide accessible, quality and affordable health care, the Government has launched the National Rural Health Mission. The Mission seeks to provide effective health care to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 States with poor health indicators and week health infrastructure.

(c) An increase of 22% has been proposed in the budgetary allocation for the plan programmes in Health and Family Welfare for 2006-07 over 2005-06.

WACO on Aids

2055. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a National Council on AIDS to have policy directives and monitor country's AIDS control programme;

(b) the number of times that the Council met since its establishment;

(c) the details of Members of the Council; and

(d) what are the reasons for having representation in the Council only from 7 States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The first meeting of the council was held on 16th February, 2006. The Council is scheduled to meet once every year.

(c) The council comprises of 31 Ministers of Government of India, Chief Ministers of seven states, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission and 15 representatives from civil society as member. Hon'ble Prime Minister is the Chairman and Minister of Health and Family Welfare is the Vice-Chairman of this Council.

(d) The states/UTs in India have been categorized into high prevalence (6 states), moderate prevalence (3 states), highly vulnerable (14 States) and vunerable (10 states) based on prevalence of HIV/AIDS and various associated vulnerability factors. The Council is represented by Chief Ministers of three high prevalence states such as Tamilnadu, Maharashtra and Nagaland, one from moderate prevalence state i.e. Gujarat and Chief Ministers of three highly vulnerable states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal as members. The reason for having representation from these 7 states is, therefore, to ensure fair representation of different regions and to get suggestions to strengthen the government response for combating HIV/AIDS in India.

Monabao—Khokhrapar rail link

2056. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when railway link was to be started between Monabao—Khokhrapar on Rajasthan Sindh border according to the agreement with Pakistan;

(b) the reasons that starting of Thar Express train on this side is being delayed and date of starting this train is being postponed;

(c) whether Pakistan insists to run this train upto Ajmer; and

(d) what is the response of Government of India?